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GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN, BRISBANE.

BULLETIN NO. 32 OF 1947.

PERSONS RECEIVING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT, AUGUST, 1947.

This bulletin has been prepared from detailed tabulations, made available by the Commonwealth Statistician, of unemployed persons in Queensland who were in receipt of Commonwealth unemployment benefit at the end of August, 1947. The information covers only those persons actually in receipt of unemployment benefit, no account being taken of those whose applications for benefit are awaiting consideration or those who do not apply for benefit. The figures given, therefore, are only a part of total unemployment, although the proportions due to the various causes and in the various industries are broadly applicable to the total. Persons receiving sickness or special benefits are also excluded.

Comparison with Previous Months.

The August figures of persons in receipt of unemployment benefit were 2,089 males and 97 females, the total of 2,186 being 5,406 less than the peak figure of 7,592 for February, and 714 below October, 1946.

		<u>End of Month.</u>		<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
1946	-	October .. ..	..	2,814	86	2,900
		November .. ..	..	3,570	94	3,664
		December .. ..	..	5,971	168	6,139
1947	-	January .. ..	..	7,262	228	7,490
		February .. ..	..	7,394	198	7,592
		March .. ..	..	6,505	184	6,689
		April .. ..	..	4,698	149	4,847
		May .. ..	..	3,935	151	4,086
		June .. ..	..	3,102	129	3,231
		July .. ..	..	2,747	113	2,860
		August .. ..	..	2,089	97	2,186

The figures for the early months of 1947 were considerably affected by seasonal unemployment. February recorded the highest number on unemployment benefit for this season; and, as seasonal industries continued re-employing displaced workers, the number on benefit at the end of August, 1947, fell to the lowest level recorded since the figures first became available in October, 1946.

The number of females receiving benefit at the end of August was 97, compared with 113 for July. The Brisbane District figure (34) was the highest recorded for any one district for the month. Bundaberg District had 12 females drawing unemployment benefit at the end of August, Toowoomba 10, and Rockhampton 9. The balance of 32 was distributed throughout the rest of the State.

Causes of unemployment are given below for the months of October, February (the peak month), July, and August, together with the increase or decrease during August for each cause.

<u>Cause of Unemployment.</u>	<u>October,</u> <u>1946.</u>	<u>February,</u> <u>1947.</u>	<u>July,</u> <u>1947.</u>	<u>August,</u> <u>1947.</u>	<u>Increase(+)</u> <u>or Decrease(-)</u> <u>in August.</u>
Medical unfitness for type of work, work too heavy ..	109	100	62	47	-15
Inefficiency, incompetence ..	112	144	94	83	-11
Establishment closed, reduction of staff .. ..	491	854	544	439	-105
Replaced by re-instated servicemen .. ..	116	131	76	62	-14
Shortage of materials ..	130	252	121	96	-25
Seasonal work and weather conditions .. ..	276	3,327	469	168	-301
Casual work .. ..	495	958	521	464	-57
Discharged or laid off for other reasons .. ..	438	514	204	181	-23
Quitted because work too heavy, medically unfit, etc. ..	231	440	355	295	-60
Quitted for other reasons ..	179	324	177	164	-13
Not previously employed ..	323	548	237	187	-50
	2,900	7,592	2,860	2,186	-674



The number of persons drawing unemployment benefit in July due to the seasonal nature of their work decreased in August by 301, with smaller decreases for other causes. The peak of seasonal unemployment for the State was passed in February, although it was March before the northern sugar districts recorded their highest figures. By the end of May, much of the seasonally displaced labour had been re-absorbed, but some of the northern sugar districts, particularly Mackay, Innisfail, and Cairns, and the southern sugar district of Bundaberg, still had a substantial pool of labour waiting for re-absorption. During June, July and August, re-employment in all sugar districts reduced the numbers unemployed at the end of August below, or almost as low as, the level of October, 1946. Seasonal unemployment had practically disappeared in most sugar districts by the end of June, but in Mackay it lasted longer, and the figure for that district did not fall below its October 1946 level until the end of July, and a further substantial fall of 140 occurred in August. In the southern sugar district of Bundaberg there was no substantial decrease in unemployment until August when the total fell from 419 to 72 during the month. With the sugar season in full operation at the end of August, the pool of seasonal unemployment was practically eliminated. From the peak month of February 1947, when 3,327 were unemployed on account of seasonal reasons, employment replaced 3,159, leaving only 168 to be re-absorbed in work.

The movements are illustrated in the following statement, which shows the number of persons drawing benefit in each district in October, 1946, the number in the month up to August, 1947, which showed the highest level of unemployment, and the number in August 1947, together with the increase from October 1946 to the seasonal peak, and the subsequent decrease.

<u>District.</u>	<u>October,</u> <u>1946.</u>	<u>Peak of Seasonal</u> <u>Unemployment to</u> <u>August, 1947.</u>	<u>August,</u> <u>1947.</u>	<u>Increase,</u> <u>October</u> <u>to Peak.</u>	<u>Decrease,</u> <u>Peak to</u> <u>August.</u>
Brisbane ..	1,401	2,065 (Feb. 1947)	1,307	664	758
Ipswich ..	154	190 (Dec. 1946)	48	36	142
Gympie ..	21	30 (Feb. 1947)	13	9	17
Maryborough	127	221 (Jan. 1947)	38	94	183
Bundaberg ..	101	596 (Jan. 1947)	72	495	524
Toowoomba ..	94	177 (Feb. 1947)	95	83	82
Warwick ..	23	42 (Dec. 1946)	30	19	12
Roma ..	10	24 (Dec. 1946)	5	14	19
Charleville	44	75 (Dec. 1946)	22	31	53
Rockhampton	345	1,462 (Jan. 1947)	176	1,117	1,286
Emerald ..	1	10 (Jan. 1947)	3	9	7
Longreach ..	12	117 (Dec. 1946)	20	105	97
Mackay ..	229	861 (Mar. 1947)	82	632	779
Ayr ..	10	233 (Feb. 1947)	12	223	221
Townsville ..	127	616 (Mar. 1947)	60	489	556
Ingham ..	7	440 (Mar. 1947)	6	433	434
Innisfail ..	15	368 (Mar. 1947)	8	353	360
Cairns ..	77	599 (Mar. 1947)	52	522	547
Charters Towers	69	182 (Feb. 1947)	119	113	63
Atherton ..	30	78 (Mar. 1947)	15	48	63
Hughenden ..	3	52 (Feb. 1947)	3	49	49
Total State	2,900	7,592 (Feb. 1947)	2,186	4,692	5,406



Causes by Districts.

The attached table (No. 1) shows the main causes of unemployment in each district. Moreton numbers were the highest in any district in August, 1947, and they represented a proportion of the district population above the State average. Moreton district is relatively unaffected by seasonal unemployment, and its rate of unemployment tends to be above the State average in months when seasonal activity reduces unemployment to a low level in other districts, and below the State average when seasonal activity in other districts has decreased, and raised the numbers unemployed in those districts. Comparison of the rates per 10,000 population showed the highest figure for the north-west districts. The Downs and south-west, as usual, showed the lowest rate, followed by south-east coastal and north coastal districts which were low on account of the almost complete absence of seasonal unemployment in these areas.

Industries by Districts.

Table No. 2 shows the industries in which those drawing benefit are normally engaged. Building and construction have the highest total (12 per cent. of the total drawing unemployment benefit). The largest decreases compared with July were in agricultural, pastoral and dairying industries (406 to 196), food and drink factories which include sugar mills (347 to 202), and building and construction (364 to 259).

The most significant changes in districts during August were decreases in unemployment amongst agricultural field workers and sugar mill workers in Mackay and Bundaberg; and in building and construction workers in the northern sugar districts. It must be remembered that the industry shown in each case is the industry in which the worker was last employed. The decrease in building and construction workers is probably due to men who were employed temporarily in building who, after a period of unemployment, have now taken work in the sugar industry during its busy season.

S. E. SOLOMON.

ACTING GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN.

BRISBANE.

28th November, 1947.



TABLE 1. - PERSONS RECEIVING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT, QUEENSLAND.

AUGUST, 1947.

## DISTRICTS AND CAUSES OF UNEMPLOYMENT.

DISTRICT.	Discharged or Laid Off.								Quitted.			Total.	
	Medical unfitness for particular type of work, work too heavy, etc.	Inefficiency, incompetence.	Establishment closed, reduction of staff, permanent retrenchment.	Replaced by re-instated servicemen, relieving worker only.	Shortage of Materials.	Seasonal work and weather conditions.	Casual work.	Discharged or laid-off for other reasons.	Medical unfitness, work too heavy, medical advice.	Quitted for other reasons.	Not previously employed.	Number.	Per 10,000 population.
Brisbane ..	31	66	277	43	67	38	250	116	195	97	127	1,307	
Ipswich ..	.	2	8	.	.	3	9	9	5	7	5	48	
Moreton ..	31	68	285	43	67	41	259	125	200	104	132	1,355	26
Gympie ..	.	.	.	.	6	.	3	.	2	1	1	13	
Maryborough	1	.	3	3	.	4	9	5	8	3	2	38	
Bundaberg ..	.	.	6	1	4	9	31	1	11	6	3	72	
S.E.Coastal	1	.	9	4	10	13	43	6	21	10	6	123	11
Goowoomba ..	1	2	26	3	7	1	19	8	15	8	5	95	
Warwick ..	.	2	3	1	.	3	6	2	5	5	3	30	
Roma ..	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	.	1	2	.	5	
Charleville	.	.	.	.	.	7	12	2	.	.	1	22	
Downs & S.W.	1	4	29	4	7	11	39	12	21	15	9	152	10
Rockhampton	4	2	43	4	8	39	32	12	11	9	12	176	
Emerald ..	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	1	.	.	3	
Longreach ..	.	2	1	.	.	5	2	1	5	3	1	20	
Central ..	4	4	44	4	8	44	34	15	17	12	13	199	20
Blackay ..	3	1	7	1	.	14	30	6	6	4	10	82	
Yarr ..	.	.	5	.	.	3	1	.	1	2	.	12	
Townsville	3	6	17	2	.	6	2	7	10	5	2	60	
Wingham ..	.	.	1	.	.	3	1	.	1	.	.	6	
Annisfail ..	1	.	2	.	.	2	2	.	1	.	.	8	
Wairms ..	.	.	15	1	.	25	4	2	1	1	3	52	
N. Coastal	7	7	47	4	.	53	40	15	20	12	15	220	15
Porters	3	.	24	3	4	6	37	6	15	11	10	119	
Therton ..	.	.	1	.	.	.	9	2	1	.	2	15	
Whenden ..	.	.	.	.	.	.	3	.	.	.	.	3	
North West	3	.	25	3	4	6	49	8	16	11	12	137	29
TOTAL STATE	47	83	439	62	96	168	464	181	295	164	187	2,186	20



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TABLE 2. - PERSONS RECEIVING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT, QUEENSLAND.

AUGUST, 1947.

DISTRICTS AND INDUSTRIES.

DISTRICT.	Industry in Which Last Engaged.														TOTAL.
	Agricultural, Pastoral, and Dairying.	Other Primary (including Mining).	Engineering.	Food and Drink.	Other Factories.	Building and Construction.	Shipping and Wharf Work.	Transport.	Wholesale.	Retail.	Previously Employed by Australian or Allied Services.	Personal and Domestic Service.	Discharged Servicemen.	Other Industries.	
Brisbane ..	40	25	141	93	106	115	78	69	96	78	167	90	64	145	1,307
Ipswich ..	5	4	4	.	4	10	.	3	.	5	3	3	2	5	48
Moreton ..	45	29	145	93	110	125	78	72	96	83	170	93	66	150	1,555
ympie ..	1	2	.	1	6	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	13
aryborough	6	4	2	4	.	6	3	4	1	4	.	2	1	1	38
undaberg	13	3	2	3	1	8	28	.	.	5	.	7	.	2	72
S.E.Coastal	20	9	4	8	7	15	31	4	1	9	.	9	1	5	123
cowoomba	7	1	6	3	8	13	.	2	6	13	13	10	3	10	95
arwick ..	5	.	2	4	.	10	.	.	1	3	.	2	1	2	30
oma ..	2	.	.	.	.	1	.	1	.	.	.	1	.	.	5
arleville	19	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	1	1	22
Downs & S.W.	33	1	8	7	8	24	.	3	7	17	13	13	5	13	152
ockhampton	21	4	2	56	1	32	15	5	5	7	2	5	7	14	176
erald ..	2	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
ongreach	13	.	1	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	5	.	.	20
entral ..	36	4	3	56	1	34	15	5	5	7	2	10	7	14	193
uckay ..	16	5	1	8	4	19	4	1	2	5	1	6	2	8	82
er ..	3	.	.	2	.	3	.	.	.	1	1	1	.	1	12
ownsville	5	.	3	9	8	4	4	.	6	3	7	8	.	3	60
gham ..	3	1	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	6
misfail	3	1	.	.	.	.	1	.	2	.	.	1	.	.	8
irns ..	13	2	1	16	.	4	5	1	1	2	.	2	1	4	52
L.Coastal	43	9	5	35	12	31	14	2	11	11	9	18	3	17	220
arters	19	11	5	4	5	29	.	5	2	5	22	2	2	8	119
herton ..	1	1	.	.	1	6	.	1	.	1	1	1	.	2	15
ghenden	2	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
orth West	22	12	5	4	6	36	.	6	2	6	23	3	2	10	137
TOTAL STATE	199	64	170	203	144	265	138	92	122	133	217	146	84	209	2,186



TABLE 2. - PERSONS RECEIVING UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT, QUEENSLAND.

AUGUST, 1947.

## DISTRICTS AND INDUSTRIES.

DISTRICT.	Industry in Which Last Engaged.														TOTAL.
	Agricultural, Pastoral, and Dairying.	Other Primary (including Mining).	Engineering.	Food and Drink.	Other Factories.	Building and Construction.	Shipping and Wharf Work.	Transport.	Wholesale.	Retail.	Previously Employed by Australian or Allied Services.	Personal and Domestic Service.	Discharged Servicemen.	Other Industries.	
Brisbane ..	37	14	140	92	101	109	78	63	95	63	167	33	64	196	1,307
Ipswich ..	5	4	4	.	4	10	.	3	.	5	3	3	2	5	48
Moreton ..	42	18	144	92	105	119	78	66	95	68	170	91	66	201	1,355
Lympie ..	1	.	.	1	8	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	13
Laryborough	6	4	2	4	.	6	3	4	1	4	.	2	1	1	38
undaberg ..	13	3	2	3	1	8	28	.	.	5	.	7	.	2	72
S.E. Coastal	20	7	4	8	9	15	31	4	1	9	.	9	1	5	123
ocwoomba ..	7	1	6	3	8	13	.	2	6	13	13	10	3	10	95
arwick ..	5	.	2	4	.	10	.	.	1	3	.	2	1	2	30
oma ..	2	.	.	.	.	1	.	1	.	.	.	1	.	.	5
harleville	19	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	1	1	22
Downs & S.W.	33	1	8	7	8	24	.	3	7	17	13	13	5	13	152
ockhampton	21	4	2	56	1	32	15	5	5	7	2	5	7	14	176
nerald ..	2	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
ongreach ..	13	.	1	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	5	.	.	20
entral ..	36	4	3	56	1	34	15	5	5	7	2	10	7	14	199
ackay ..	16	5	1	8	4	19	4	1	2	5	1	6	2	8	82
yr ..	3	.	.	2	.	3	.	.	.	1	1	1	.	1	12
ownsville	5	.	3	9	8	4	4	.	6	3	7	3	.	3	60
gham ..	3	1	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1	6
misfail ..	3	1	.	.	.	.	1	.	2	.	.	1	.	.	8
irns ..	13	2	1	16	.	4	5	1	1	2	.	2	1	4	52
l. Coastal	43	9	5	35	12	31	14	2	11	11	9	18	3	17	220
arters															
owers ..	19	11	5	4	5	29	.	5	2	5	22	2	2	8	119
herton ..	1	1	.	.	1	6	.	1	.	1	1	1	.	2	15
ghenden ..	2	.	.	.	.	1	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	3
orth West	22	12	5	4	6	36	.	6	2	6	23	3	2	10	137
TOTAL STATE	196	51	169	202	141	259	138	86	121	118	217	144	84	260	2,186



S/T 1980